

study and improve access to care and treatment for these diseases, and help debunk the myths associated with psoriasis.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last four decades and am grateful to the Foundation and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving quality of life for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding advocacy and leadership of my constituent, Lara Wine Lee, who has psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and who has helped to educate me and my staff about the challenges for people living with these terrible conditions. Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our tens of thousands of constituents with psoriasis and the National Psoriasis Foundation. I call upon this Congress to take action to expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis research and ensure access to care and treatment for this disease and stand ready to lead this important effort.

#### A TRIBUTE TO VIOLETTA KOVÁCS

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a wonderful Hungarian author, Violetta Kovács. Ms. Kovács devotion to man's best friend is

dutifully communicated in her eloquent prose and knowledge of dogs.

As the President of the Hungarian Journalist Association's Animal Welfare Division for the last 10 years, she has played an integral role in the introduction and enactment of the Hungarian Animal Welfare Act. This important piece of legislation finally criminalized acts that, until then were merely moral transgressions, the torture of animals in Hungary.

Madam Speaker, her passion for animals can be seen in her legislation and also her superbly written and popular books, like: *From Guide Dogs to Dog Stars*, *Sounds of a Dog's Heart* and *Dog Commando*. In these books she calls attention to the loyalty, bravery and sacrifice inherent in the character of dogs. Dogs are always on man's side helping to prevent crimes, capturing criminals, collecting evidence and rescuing those lost or stranded in the wilderness. They were at the side of firemen and other search and rescue teams that worked so valiantly during those dark days after September 11th, searching relentlessly for survivors.

Madam Speaker, in *Dog Commando*, Violetta paid tribute to the K9 teams and rescue dogs she witnessed combing the ruins of the horrible terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Those powerful moments made her realize what we really owe our best friends and this cannot be forgotten, even in our most tragic hours. Reading her book we witness the true stories of Officer Frank McDermott and Mark Day with their beloved four-legged partners and their col-

leagues from all over the world. These fine people talk about their dogs with deep emotions, sometimes with tears, each and every one indicating an invisible, unique and everlasting bond between man and animal.

Madam Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Friends of Animals Caucus, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Violetta Kovács for her endless efforts in animal protection, and to the K9 and rescue dogs of the world for their service to the mankind.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 13, 2007*

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, February 13th, I was unavoidably delayed and was unable to cast a vote on H. Res. 157 Providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 63) disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq.

I would like the RECORD to reflect that if I had not been delayed, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 157.